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T. S. 88655

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26 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Preliminary Comments on PSB paper D-23 of
19 May 1953

1. You have requested my reactions and recommendations concerning the above-mentioned staff study which is scheduled for preliminary discussion at the PSB meeting of 28 May 1953. (Actually, I am informed that the present paper is far from ready for submission to "policy levels," and that it may be up against very substantial objections from the State Department. I have learned that Mr. Bonsal, who has been chairing the Panel, has expressed so many objections to the paper in its present form as to place the entire exercise in doubt.)

2. The staff study, which is entitled "U. S. Psychological Strategy with Respect to the Thai Peoples of Southeast Asia," embodies very ambitious and far-reaching proposals. It calls for a program of concerted and coordinated actions in Southeast Asia in order to meet and overcome the present adverse trend, with particular reference to the latest "psycho-political" strategy of the Communists in Southeast Asia.

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NSC review(s) completed.

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- 2 -

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Whereas I am in full agreement with the statement concerning the weakness of the French position in Indo-China, etc., I cannot conceive of how anything constructive can be erected with "U. S. leadership" for use in Indo-China without a total change of attitude on the part of the French authorities.

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4. Failing French concurrence in the plan or at the very least sympathetic French acquiescence or connivance

I would predict that we will inevitably run into all of the old charges of "undermining the French position in Indo-China;" "offering provocative and pretexts for Chinese Communist intervention," etc., -- that

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6. I have not been able to ascertain that a sufficient opportunity has been afforded to the intelligence analyzing and estimating arms of CIA and State to make their contribution of ideas to this paper. This is a disquieting feature of the exercise -- particularly in view of the fact that the paper purports to set forth and depend upon an analysis and estimate of the prevailing situation in Southeast Asia as well as the future probabilities. I have arranged for a copy of the paper to be provided to DD/I and, as indicated above, I would judge that there would be sufficient time for DD/I to make his contribution to this important study and proposal.

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FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

cc: DD/I - Copy #2
C/FE - Copy #3

Attached:

TS 88615 - Copy 45
"U. S. Psychological
Strategy with Respect to
the Thai Peoples of South-
east Asia", PSB paper D-23
dated 19 May 1953.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Enclosures missing

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